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PATENT

Customer Number 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 7040.0098.00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Renato CARETTA )  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned ) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
Filed: September 28, 2001 ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
For: A CARCASS STRUCTURE FOR )  
TYRES FOR VEHICLE WHEELS, )  
AND A TYRE COMPRISING SAID )  
CARCASS STRUCTURE )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-captioned application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Add two section headings, a section subheading, and a paragraph immediately after the title A CARCASS STRUCTURE FOR TYRES FOR VEHICLE WHEELS, AND A TYRE COMPRISING SAID CARCASS STRUCTURE, as follows:

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--CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/EP01/00644, filed January 22, 2001, in the European Patent Office; additionally, Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 00830058.4, filed January 28, 2000, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/190,526, filed March 20, 2000, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; the contents of all of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Page 1, line 10, add section subheading --Description of the Related Art-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The manufacturing of tyres for vehicle wheels . . . ."

Page 5, line 5, add section heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "In accordance with the present invention . . . ."

Page 7, line 8, add section heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Further features and advantages . . . ."

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Page 8, line 3, add section heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE  
PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "With reference  
to the aforementioned figures . . . ."

Add a new Page 24 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE  
DISCLOSURE. A new, separate Page 24 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is  
enclosed.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A carcass structure for vehicle wheel tyres includes at least one carcass ply and a pair of  
annular reinforcing structures. The at least one carcass ply includes a first and a second series of  
strip segments consecutively arranged along a circumferential development of a toroidal support  
and including at least two filiform elements, positioned longitudinally and parallel to each other,  
at least partially coated by at least one layer of raw elastomer material. The annular reinforcing  
structures include at least one primary portion and at least one additional portion. The at least  
one primary portion includes a first circumferentially-inextensible annular insert, a filling body,  
and at least one second circumferentially-inextensible annular insert. The at least one additional  
portion comprises at least one third circumferentially-inextensible annular insert. The annular  
inserts are each formed by at least one elongated element extending in concentric turns.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-8, and add new claims 9-16, as  
follows:

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--9. (new) A carcass structure for vehicle wheel tyres, comprising:

at least one carcass ply; and

a pair of annular reinforcing structures each engaged in proximity to a respective interior circumferential edge of the at least one carcass ply;

wherein the at least one carcass ply comprises a first and a second series of strip segments consecutively arranged along a circumferential development of a toroidal support and extending according to a substantially U-shaped conformation, wherein a sealing layer is optionally disposed between the at least one carcass ply and the toroidal support;

wherein the first and the second series of strip segments comprise at least two filiform elements, positioned longitudinally and parallel to each other, at least partially coated by at least one layer of raw elastomer material, and

wherein each of the annular reinforcing structures comprises:

at least one primary portion; and

at least one additional portion;

wherein the at least one primary portion presents an axially-interior side oriented toward terminal edges of the first series of strip segments and an axially-exterior side oriented toward terminal edges of the second series of strip segments;

wherein the at least one primary portion comprises:

a first circumferentially-inextensible annular insert;

a filling body; and

at least one second circumferentially-inextensible annular insert;

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wherein the first annular insert is substantially annulus-shaped and is positioned coaxially to the toroidal support and adjacently to an interior circumferential edge of the at least one carcass ply,

wherein the first annular insert is formed by at least one elongated element extending in concentric turns,

wherein the filling body is made of elastomeric material and is joined to the first annular insert,

wherein the at least one second annular insert is substantially annulus-shaped and is positioned coaxially to the toroidal support in a position set axially side-by-side to the filling body and laterally opposite relative to the first annular insert, and

wherein the at least one second annular insert is formed by at least one elongated element extending in concentric turns; and

wherein the at least one additional portion is positioned against the terminal edges of the second series of strip segments on a side opposite to the at least one primary portion,

wherein the at least one additional portion comprises at least one third circumferentially-inextensible annular insert,

wherein the at least one third annular insert is substantially crown-shaped and is positioned coaxially to the toroidal support and adjacently to an interior circumferential edge of the at least one carcass ply, and

wherein the at least one third annular insert is formed by at least one elongated element extending in concentric turns.

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10. (new) The carcass structure of claim 9, wherein the first and the second series of strip segments are arranged in a mutually-alternated sequence along the circumferential development of the toroidal support.

11. (new) The carcass structure of claim 10, wherein each of the strip segments presents two lateral portions, developing substantially toward a geometric axis of the toroidal support in positions that are mutually-distanced in the axial direction, and a crown portion, extending in a radially-exterior position between the lateral portions,

wherein the crown portions of the first and the second series of strip segments are set mutually side-by-side along the circumferential development of the toroidal support.

12. (new) The carcass structure of claim 9, wherein the second annular insert and the at least one third annular insert present a lesser radial extension than a radial extension of the first annular insert.

13. (new) The carcass structure of claim 12, wherein the at least one third annular insert presents a radial extension between one-third and two-thirds of the radial extension of the first annular insert.

14. (new) The carcass structure of claim 12, wherein the second annular insert presents a radial extension between one-third and two-thirds of the radial extension of the first annular insert.

15. (new) The carcass structure of claim 9, further comprising an auxiliary filling body made of elastomeric material disposed in an axially-exterior position against the at least one carcass ply and extending radially away from the at least one third annular insert.

16. (new) The carcass structure of claim 15, wherein a hardness value of the auxiliary filling body is substantially equal to a hardness value of the filling body.--

#### REMARKS

Applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment together with a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371.

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant adds section headings, section subheadings, and an Abstract of the Disclosure to conform to U.S. practice. Additionally, Applicant adds claims to the right of priority and benefit. Further, Applicant cancels, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2-8, and adds new claims 9-16, which include the same subject matter as the original claims, to improve clarity. The originally filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification and the addition of new claims 9-16. No new matter was introduced.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment,  
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 28, 2001

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